



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release

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CCOF Welcomes Italian Students to California Organics

(June, 20, 2007) Santa Cruz, CA –CCOF is excited to welcome students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy as they visit California to learn about the state's agricultural heritage and quality foods and wines produced in our abundant state.

After receiving an overview of California agriculture, and completing stops in Napa Valley to tour some large-scale conventional wineries, the students will refine their learning experience by becoming immersed in the progressive world of organic agriculture. To start, the group will study California organic winemaking by visiting CCOF certified Frog's Leap winery in Napa, where they will learn what grapes are used, as well as what methods are applied at the winery. The group will then tour CCOF certified Long Meadow Ranch and Winery to study integrated farming methods and biodiversity, and then move on to CCOF certified Full Belly Farm in the Capay Valley, where they will learn first hand how a successful, full production, California organic farm operates year round.

CCOF will then have the opportunity to host the group of gastronomic sciences students at its Santa Cruz office, where attendees will learn about the many sides of the organic industry, from organic certification regulations and the National Organic Program, to CCOF's political advocacy efforts, to highlights and overviews of organic production in California as well as throughout the nation.

CCOF, one of North America's oldest and largest organic certification agencies, certifies more than 1,600 organic farmers, processors, handlers, retailers, and private labelers, including about 75% of the organic acreage in California. More than 300 supporting members are comprised of consumers, suppliers and other individuals and businesses interested in furthering CCOF's work.

About CCOF

CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1973 and is one of the nation's oldest and largest third-party organic certifying agencies. CCOF certifies, educates, advocates and promotes organic in California and elsewhere through:

- *A premier organic certification program for growers, processors, handlers, and retailers.*
- *Programs to increase awareness of and demand for certified organic product and to expand public support for organic agriculture.*
- *Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.*

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